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## 9/11 anniversary brings Biden, Harris and Trump together at ground zero



A New Jersey police officer holds an American Flag before the start of the ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial on the 23rd anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

By JENNIFER PELTZ and KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With presidential candidates looking on, some 9/11 victims' relatives appealed to them Wednesday for accountability as the U.S. marked an anniversary laced with

election-season politics. In a remarkable tableau, President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together at ground zero just hours after Trump and Harris faced off in their first-ever debate. Trump and Biden — the successor whose

inauguration Trump skipped — shook hands, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to facilitate a handshake between Harris and Trump. Then the presidential rivals stood only a few feet apart, Biden and Bloomberg between them, as the observ-

ance began with the tolling of a bell and a moment of silence. At Trump's side was his running mate, Sen. JD Vance.

The image was one of putting politics aside at another solemn commemoration of the hijacked-plane attacks that killed nearly 3,000

people on Sept. 11, 2001. For years, politicians have been only observers at ground zero commemorations, the microphones going instead to relatives who read victims' names aloud.

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"BEST RESTAURANT IN PALM BEACH"  
FRENCH - CARIBBEAN  
-DAILY CHANGING SPECIALS-  
-LIVE MUSIC-  
-EARLY BIRD-

**Papillon**  
RESTAURANT

## 9/11 anniversary brings Biden, Harris and Trump together at ground zero

Continued from Front

Some of those readers took the occasion Wednesday to deliver political messages of their own.

"We are pleading for your help, but you ignore us," Alison Walsh-DiMarzio said, directly challenging Trump and Harris to press Saudi Arabia about any Saudi official involvement in the attacks. Most of the 19 hijackers were Saudi, but the kingdom denies involvement by senior Saudi officials.

"Which one of you will have the courage to be our hero? We deserve better," Walsh-DiMarzio said. She's a daughter of 9/11 victim Barbara P. Walsh, an administrative assistant.

Joanne Barbara was one of multiple readers who spoke out against a now-revoked plea deal that military prosecutors struck with alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two fellow defendants.

"It has been 23 years, and the families deserve justice and accountability," said the widow of Assistant Fire Chief Gerard A. Barbara.

Biden, on his last Sept. 11 in office, and Harris were set to pay respects Wednesday at all three 9/11 attack sites: ground zero, the Pentagon and a rural part of Pennsylvania.

The president, vice president — and, separately, Trump — laid wreaths Wednesday.



From left, Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, President Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, attend the 9/11 Memorial ceremony on the 23rd anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

day afternoon at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Biden and Harris spoke with victims' relatives and visited the local fire department; Trump and Vance went to a New York City firehouse earlier in the day.

The Flight 93 memorial stands where one of the hijacked planes crashed after crew members and passengers tried to storm the cockpit. Trump described the site as an "incredible place" in brief remarks from afar to reporters.

The attacks killed 2,977 people and left thousands of be-

reaved relatives and scarred survivors. The planes took down the World Trade Center's twin towers and carved a gash in the Pentagon, the U.S. military headquarters. While it may seem that many Americans don't observe 9/11 anniversaries anymore, "the men and women of the Department of Defense remember," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday. The attacks altered U.S. foreign policy, domestic security practices and the mindset of many Americans who had not previously felt vulnerable to attacks by foreign extremists.

Effects rippled around the world and through generations as the U.S. responded by leading a "Global War on Terrorism," which included invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Those operations killed hundreds of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis and thousands of American troops. Communities around the country hold their own 9/11 remembrances. Volunteer projects also mark the anniversary, which Congress has titled both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance. During early anniversaries at ground zero, presidents and

other officeholders read poems, parts of the Declaration of Independence and other texts.

But the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum decided in 2012 to limit the ceremony to relatives reading victims' names.

If politicians "care about what's actually going on, great. Be here," Korrin Bishop said as she arrived to watch Wednesday's ceremony.

"If they're just here for political clout, that upsets me," added Bishop. She lost her cousin John F. McDowell Jr., who worked in finance..

Brandon Jones was glad politicians weren't on the podium. "This should be a site for coming together to find feasible solutions and peace. This should not be a place to score political points to get brownie points to round up your base," said Jones. He's a cousin of victim Jon Richard Grabowski, an insurance firm technology executive.

In 2008, then-senators and presidential campaign rivals John McCain and Barack Obama paid their respects at ground zero, which was still an open pit.

The anniversary became a fraught part of the 2016 presidential campaign. The Democratic nominee, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, abruptly left the trade center ceremony, stumbled while awaiting her motorcade and later disclosed that she had been diagnosed with pneumonia. □



Jim Sasser, a former U.S. senator and a former ambassador to China, takes part in a discussion at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 15, 2006.

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Jim Sasser, who served 18 years in the U.S. Senate and six years as ambassador to

China, has died. He was 87. Gray Sasser, his son, said his father died Tuesday evening at his home in Chapel Hill,

## Tennessee senator and ambassador to China Jim Sasser has died

N.C., of an apparent heart attack.

Sasser, a Democrat, represented Tennessee in the Senate from 1977 to 1995. President Bill Clinton then appointed him ambassador to China, a post he held until 2001.

Sasser was elected to the Senate by defeating Republican Bill Brock in 1976, and worked his way up the party leadership, serving as chairman of the budget committee from 1989 to 1992. He had a chance of becoming Senate majority leader before he was de-

feated for re-election in 1994 by Republican Bill Frist, who at the time was a political unknown making his first run for public office.

After he retired as ambassador, Sasser became a consultant.

Gray Sasser and his sister Elizabeth Sasser said of their father in a written statement, "He believed in the nobility of public service and the transformational power of government."

He was proudest of his "quiet achievements" for ordinary Tennesseans, like helping with a disability claim or VA

benefits. Sasser, a native of Memphis, Tenn., was raised in Nashville. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1958 and from Vanderbilt Law School in 1961.

He practiced law in Nashville and became a Democratic activist, managing the unsuccessful re-election campaign of Sen. Albert Gore Sr. in 1970. He was chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party from 1973 until 1976, when he got a measure of revenge by winning election to the Senate over Brock, who had unseated Gore in 1970. □

## Election officials ask for more federal money but say voting is secure in their states

By ALI SWENSON

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Top election officials from two presidential swing states on Wednesday pleaded for more federal money for election infrastructure, even as they express confidence in their preparations for November's vote.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, both Democrats, said during a House Administration Committee hearing that they need continued funding to improve election security, replace aging machines, hire personnel and upgrade voter registration systems.

But they and the four other state election officials at the hearing said they have been stretching their resources to do everything possible to help eligible voters participate this fall and keep ineligible voters out of the process. The appeal for more federal money comes as voting is about to begin in this year's presidential election and as the first absentee ballots were starting to be mailed to



Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, a Democrat, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Arizona, Monday, March 4, 2024.

Associated Press

voters. The election process also has been coming under intense scrutiny around the country, fueled by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's false claims of widespread fraud in the 2020 election, his warnings without evidence that noncitizens will illegally vote this year and his ominous pledge to prosecute

anyone involved in what he called "rampant cheating" in this year's election. The disinformation has prompted threats that have forced election administrators to beef up security, as well as attacks toward election workers that at times have required a law enforcement response. Fontes told the committee,

which oversees federal elections, that Arizona has taken a number of steps to improve voter confidence and enhance election security this year, from hosting tabletop exercises to deploying a statewide ballot-tracking system. It also is deploying technology workers to ensure that county election offices are

equipped with important safeguards.

But "none of this is free," he said, and there is still "zero sustained and dependable federal funding for this critical infrastructure."

"Do the same for highways and dams and railroads and see what happens," Fontes said. "We implore you, please consider, if this is such a big deal and if it is so important that we continue to have free, fair and secure elections, fund them." The Republican chair of the committee, Rep. Bryan Steil of Wisconsin, responded to the funding calls by promoting the SAVE Act, a proof-of-citizenship mandate for voters that is being pushed by Republicans and that previously passed the GOP-controlled House. Republicans are trying to push through the bill as part of wider legislation aimed at avoiding a partial government shutdown this fall. Steil said to Benson that the legislation would give election administrators free access to a federal database to help them check for noncitizen voters on the rolls. □

## More women had their tubes tied after Roe v. Wade was overturned

By LAURA UNGAR  
AP Science Writer

More women chose to have their tubes tied after Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, a new study shows, and the biggest increases were in states that ban abortion.

A research letter published Wednesday in JAMA examined insurance claims data from 2021 and 2022 for around 4.8 million women who got tubal ligations, which are surgeries to close the fallopian tubes so the patient can no longer get pregnant. The data came from 36 states and Washington, D.C., and researchers categorized these places as "banned," "limited" or "protected," based on their abortion policies.

In the 18 months before

the Dobbs decision in late June 2022, tubal ligations remained stable in all three groups of states. But in the latter half of 2022, the procedure rose in all three groups. Researchers also looked at sustained change in the numbers over time, finding that tubal ligations rose by 3% each month in banned states.

It's "not entirely surprising" given the changes to abortion laws, said Xiao Xu, lead author of the research letter and associate professor of reproductive sciences at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The research letter adds to other findings about a rise in sterilization procedures after Roe was overturned, including a study from re-

searchers published in April in JAMA Health Forum that found an abrupt increase in tubal ligations among women 18-30 years old and vasectomies among men in that age group.

"It looks like the data they used were able to break things down by state, which is nice and something we were unable to do with the data we used," said Jacqueline Ellison, an author of the April study who works at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health.

Dr. Clayton Alfonso recalled seeing a rise in tubal ligations in his OB-GYN practice at Duke University in North Carolina, "especially closer to the Dobbs decision."

Patients who didn't want more or any children were



A group gathers to protest abortion restrictions at the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Associated Press

worried about contraceptives failing and becoming pregnant unexpectedly, said Alfonso, who wasn't involved in either study. Patients told him they would rather be sterilized in case they weren't able to get an abortion.

North Carolina banned

most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy in 2023.

Alfonso said the the number of patients seeking tubal ligations has fallen a bit, which he suspects happened when people became more certain about local laws. □

## Ex-CIA officer who spied for China faces prison time and a lifetime of polygraph tests

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — A former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI who received cash, golf clubs and other expensive gifts in exchange for spying for China faces a decade in prison if a U.S. judge approves his plea agreement Wednesday.

Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, 71, made a deal in May with federal prosecutors, who agreed to recommend the 10-year term in exchange for his guilty plea to a count of conspiracy to gather or deliver national defense information to a foreign government. The deal also requires him to submit to polygraph tests, whenever requested by the U.S. government, for the rest of his life.

"I hope God and America will forgive me for what I have done," Ma, who has been in custody since his 2020 arrest, wrote in a letter to Chief U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson in Honolulu ahead of his sentencing.

Without the deal, Ma faced up to life in prison. He is allowed to withdraw from the agreement if Watson re-



This image contained in the criminal complaint against Alexander Yuk Ching Ma shows a screenshot made from a video by an FBI undercover employee taken of Ma in January 2019 during a meeting.

jects the 10-year sentence. Ma was born in Hong Kong, moved to Honolulu in 1968 and became a U.S. citizen in 1975. He joined the CIA in 1982, was assigned overseas the following year, and resigned in 1989. He held a top secret security clearance, according to court documents.

Ma lived and worked in Shanghai, China, before returning to Hawaii in 2001,

and at the behest of Chinese intelligence officers, he agreed to arrange an introduction between officers of the Shanghai State Security Bureau and his older brother who had also served as a CIA case officer.

During a three-day meeting in a Hong Kong hotel room that year, Ma's brother identified in the plea agreement as "Co-conspir-

ator #1" provided the intelligence officers a "large volume of classified and sensitive information," according to the document. They were paid \$50,000; prosecutors said they had an hourlong video from the meeting that showed Ma counting the money. Two years later, Ma applied for a job as a contract linguist in the FBI's Honolulu field office. By then, the

Associated Press

Americans knew he was collaborating with Chinese intelligence officers, and they hired him in 2004 so they could keep an eye on his espionage activities.

Over the following six years, he regularly copied, photographed and stole classified documents, prosecutors said. He often took them on trips to China, returning with thousands of dollars in cash and expensive gifts, including a new set of golf clubs, prosecutors said.

At one point in 2006, his handlers at the Shanghai State Security Bureau asked Ma to get his brother to help identify four people in photographs, and the brother did identify two of them. During a sting operation, Ma accepted thousands of dollars in cash in exchange for past espionage activities, and he told an undercover FBI agent posing as a Chinese intelligence officer that he wanted to see the "motherland" succeed, prosecutors have said. The brother was never prosecuted. He suffered from debilitating symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and has since died, court documents say. □

## Omaha school shooting began with a fight between 2 boys, court documents say

By JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — The shooting that critically injured a 15-year-old at an Omaha high school Tuesday began with a physical fight between two boys before one used a gun hidden inside his hoodie to shoot the other in the stomach, according to court documents.

The 14-year-old suspect appeared in court Wednesday afternoon and was charged as an adult with first-degree felony assault, two weapons charges and tampering with evidence. He was arrested a few blocks away from Omaha's Northwest High School

about half an hour after the shooting was reported just after midday. Bond was set at \$275,000,

and if his family was able to post bond the suspect would be required to wear a GPS monitor.



Artemis Else, right, hugs Angie Caswell as they wait outside Northwest high school after a shooting was reported Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

Court documents say a security camera at the school showed the victim approach the suspect before the fight began. The suspect had his right hand inside the pocket of his hooded sweatshirt before firing once and the victim dropped to the ground. The video showed the suspect holding the gun before putting it back in his pocket and leaving.

Police recovered the gun they believe was used in the shooting Tuesday evening after searching the neighborhood around the high school.

The victim of the shooting remained in stable condition Wednesday at an

Omaha hospital, but Officer Michael Pecha said it wasn't immediately clear whether his injuries could still be life-threatening because he faces additional surgeries.

The shooting sent students running at Northwest High School before officials locked the school down. Once police secured the building, students were gradually released to their families classroom by classroom Tuesday afternoon. Classes at the school were canceled on Wednesday. The Omaha Police Department said several threats to other area schools were made on social media after Tuesday's shooting. □

## Iran's president slams the West over the war in Gaza and support for Israel

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday slammed the West, saying that Israel is "committing massacres" in the war in Gaza and using European and American weapons to do so.

Pezeshkian, who spoke in Baghdad at the start of his first visit abroad since taking office, is hoping to cement Tehran's ties to Baghdad as regional tensions increasingly pull both majority Shiite countries into the widening Middle East fray.

Iran has been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian militant Hamas group since its Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war in the Gaza Strip. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war erupted, according to local health officials. The war has also caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. "The Israeli entity is committing massacres against women, children, young men and elderly. They bomb hospitals and schools," Pezeshkian said. "All these crimes are being committed by using European and American ammunition and bombs," he



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian meets Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, unseen, at the government palace in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

Associated Press

added, without elaborating.

Ahead of Pezeshkian's arrival, an explosion struck a site near Baghdad International Airport used by the U.S. military on Tuesday night. There were no reported casualties and the circumstances of the explosion were unclear. The U.S. Embassy later described it as an "attack" on the Baghdad Diplomatic Services Compound, an American diplomatic facility, and that it was "assessing the damage" and the

cause of the explosion. It didn't provide further details.

Pezeshkian's visit is significant for both countries. For Iran, its relationship with Iraq remains crucial for economic, political and religious reasons something that has especially been true since the U.S.-led 2003 invasion of Iraq toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, who launched a bloody, yearlong war against Iran in the 1980s. Baghdad, meanwhile, has been trying to balance its

relationship with Tehran, which backs powerful Shiite militias in the country, as well as with the United States, which maintains a force of 2,500 troops in Iraq that remain in battle with remnants of the once-dominant extremist Islamic State group.

The American troops remain both a literal and rhetoric target for Iran, particularly as Israel's nearly year-old war on Hamas in Gaza grinds on.

Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani

told reporters during a joint news conference with Pezeshkian that the two neighboring countries on Wednesday signed 14 memorandums of understanding to boost relations. He also pledged that Iraq's airspace will not be used for attacks on the Islamic Republic an apparent reference to Israel.

Pezeshkian, who was sworn in as Iran's new president in July, is also to visit Shiite shrines in the Iraqi holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, a railroad project to link the southern city of Basra to Iran and Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region.

Still, there have been tensions between Iran and Iraq, particularly after Iranian missiles hit sites in Iraq in attacks over the past six years, targeting Kurdish militias, a base housing American forces and also what Tehran alleged were Israeli sites in Iraq.

Iran also fired missiles and flew drones over Iraq in its unprecedented direct attack on Israel in April. That attack followed a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus, Syria, that killed two Iranian generals and five officers, as well as a member of the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, an Iranian ally. □

## Albania's former prime minister Sali Berisha is formally charged with corruption

By LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

**TIRANA, Albania (AP)** — Former Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha on Wednesday said he was formally charged with corruption in connection with a property deal, describing the move as politically motivated.

In October, prosecutors publicly put him under investigation for allegedly abusing his post to help his son-in-law, Jamarber Malltezi, privatize public land to build 17 apartment buildings in the capital, Tirana. Berisha, 79, who leads

the opposition Democratic Party, has been under house arrest since December after he violated a previous requirement to check in with the authorities every two weeks. He was also barred from traveling abroad.

Berisha went on Wednesday to the special prosecutors' office, known as the Special Structure Against and Organized Crime, where he was told the charges against him for about half an hour. He said he was called as a defendant and was handed a



Sali Berisha, the leader of the Albanian opposition center-right Democratic Party, speaks in Tirana, Albania, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

file of evidence, some 500 pages long, that he called "lies."

Malltezi, who is also involved in politics alongside his business interests, was also called Wednesday to be informed that he was formally charged with corruption. In December Parliament stripped Berisha of his legal immunity.

The former prime minister has criticized the investigation and his arrest as political repression ordered by Prime Minister Edi Rama, the leader of the governing leftwing Socialist Party. □

# Human rights group calls on governments to protect Venezuelan and Haitian immigrants

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— A global human rights watchdog on Wednesday called on Latin American governments to improve protection schemes, grant legal status and reverse “onerous visa requirements” for millions of Haitians and Venezuelans who have struggled to find work, access to health care and education in South American host countries, forcing them to increasingly seek asylum in the United States. Human Rights Watch, in a report describing the situation of Haitian and Venezuelan migrants, said that “limited” integration and regularization policies in South America are forcing vulnerable people to head to the United States every month. To reach the U.S. border, many asylum seekers make a long, dangerous journey that includes crossing the Darien Gap, a roadless swath of jungle between Colombia and Panama.

“What we have documented through the course of our research over the last couple of years is how the lack of safe and legal pathways has pushed migrants



Migrants cross a river during their journey through the Darien Gap from Colombia into Panama, Oct. 15, 2022.

and asylum seekers to cross the dangerous Darien Gap,” said Tirana Hassan, executive director of HRW, during a presentation of the report in Bogota.

The group urged governments in Latin America to implement a “region-wide protection regime that would grant all Venezuelans and Haitians legal status for a fixed but renewable term of adequate duration,” even if they may not qualify for refugee status under domestic law.

The report also calls for governments to eliminate barriers that hinder the integration of migrants and refugees, including legislation that prevents people from getting work permits, while they seek asylum in other countries.

“While some Latin American governments have made commendable efforts to receive migrants and asylum seekers, efforts to regularize migration in the region have often fallen short due to restrictive

timelines, complex procedures, onerous document requirements, and administrative delays,” said the report, which reviewed asylum policies in countries including Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Chile. “Asylum systems also struggle with limited capacity, resulting in significant delays,” the group said.

According to Panama officials, more than 700,000 migrants have crossed the Darien Gap over the past 18 months on their way to

Associated Press

the United States. So far this year, some 238,000 people have crossed.

Around 65% of those crossing the swampy and treacherous jungle are Venezuelans escaping their nation’s political and economic crisis.

Hassan said that on a recent visit to Necoclí a coastal town in Colombia from where migrants depart for Darien the group identified people who left Venezuela after the disputed July 28 presidential election.

“We met families facing impossible choices. They would either have to endure the repression and fear of arrest in Venezuela or risk violence, exploitation and sexual assault and possibly even death,” she said. So far this year, 11,000 Haitians have made the jungle crossing on their way to the U.S. border, according to figures published by Panama’s national immigration agency. While a new interim government was established in Haiti earlier this year, gangs continue to control 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince and millions face “acute food insecurity,” according to the U.N. food agency. □

## Critics say a South African education bill on language in schools threatens new unity government



In this photo provided by the South African Government Communication and Information System, (GCIS), South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, right, greets opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) leader, John Steenhuisen, left, at the first sitting of Parliament since elections, in Cape Town, on June 14, 2024.

Associated Press

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — An education bill that would give South Africa’s government more control over white minority language schools is a threat to the country’s new government of national unity, the second largest political party said Wednesday. The bill seeks to give the government the power to determine language and admission policies in schools. In the current arrangement, school governing bodies consisting mostly of parents and community leaders determine these.

Critics describe the bill as a threat to single-language schools, particularly those in the Afrikaans language that is spoken by the country’s white, minority Afrikaner population and others.

South Africa has 12 official languages. While most schools use English as a medium of instruction from a certain age, some

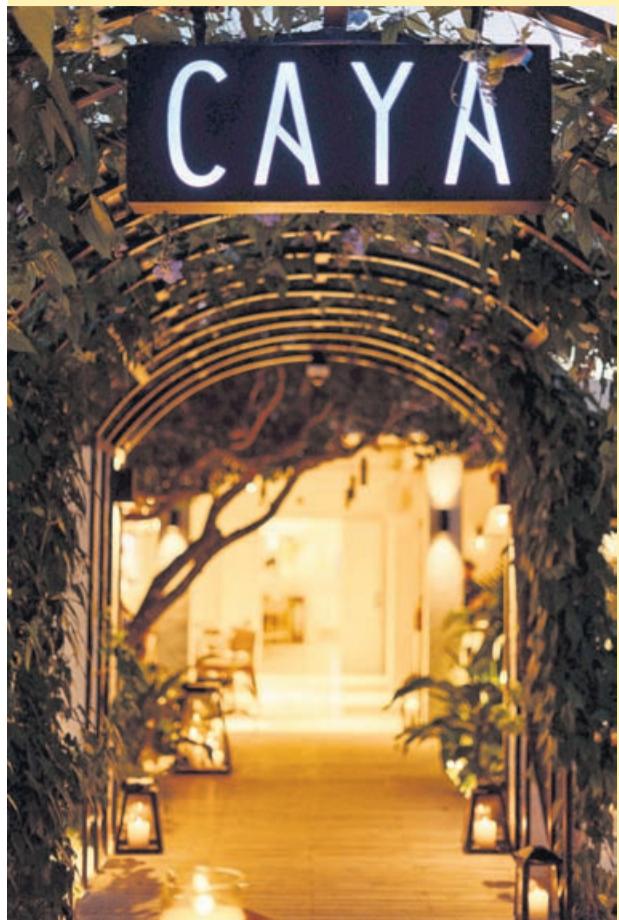
use Afrikaans, the language that developed among Dutch and other European colonial settlers in the 17th century. Out of 23,719 public schools, at least 2,484 are Afrikaans-language schools, according to government figures.

Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen said he would meet President Cyril Ramaphosa before he signs the bill into law on Friday. One civil society group has said it would take legal action to oppose the bill once Ramaphosa signs it.

The Democratic Alliance joined the unity government led by the African National Congress in June after the ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of the racist governing system of apartheid in 1994.

The ANC believes the bill would avoid the exclusion of majority Black learners from schools where the only language of instruction is Afrikaans. □

## Caribbean and Latin American Culinary Experience Arrives at Caya House



**Caya House, an iconic establishment on the culinary scene in Aruba, has taken a step forward with the launch of its new menu, designed to take diners on a journey through the vibrant and authentic flavors of Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Since its opening, Caya House has stood out for offering a culinary experience that combines tradition and creativity, and this new menu is no exception. Inspired by the rich traditions of countries such as Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, the menu reflects a commitment to authenticity and quality.

Caya House brings the essence of Latin America and the Caribbean to life through a culinary experience that is as rich in tradition as it is in flavor. The menu showcases the depth and diversity of the region's cuisine, where every dish is a tribute to the home-cooked meals passed down through generations.

Diners at Caya House can expect more than just a meal; they will be transported through the vibrant colors, textures, and tastes of the Caribbean. The new menu promises to offer an unforgettable exploration of flavor, crafted with authenticity and care.

### What customers can expect:

- Inspiring Dishes:** Caya's new menu offers a variety of dishes that pay homage to the culinary roots of the Caribbean and Latin America. From fresh fish prepared with local ingredients to tender, juicy meats, each dish is designed to delight and surprise.
- Authentic Cocktails:** The cocktails at Caya are a natural extension of our culinary philosophy. With tropical ingredients, fresh herbs, and premium liquors, our



drinks perfectly complement the dishes and add a festive touch to every meal.

- A Complete Sensory Experience:** At Caya, food is just part of the experience. Latin and Caribbean music, décor evoking a tropical home, and attentive, welcoming service combine to create an atmosphere where every visit becomes an unforgettable memory.

Caya House is also the perfect setting for



gatherings and special celebrations. Whether it's a family reunion, a milestone birthday, or a corporate event, our space offers the ideal backdrop for memorable moments. Private reservations for large groups and exclusive events are available to make any occasion extraordinary.

Reserve now and savor the best of Caya House. For more information and reservations, visit [caya.aw](http://caya.aw) or call +297 6993982. □





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## Don't miss out on L'Avenue's Early Bird Special!



**(Oranjestad)—Up to grab an early dinner after a day of shopping or cruising? Take advantage of L'Avenue's Early Bird Special, and experience their innovative twist of traditional Belgian cuisine!**

Located in a cozy nook at The Cove Mall—a short walking distance from the Holiday Inn and Paseo Herencia, this Belgian and French bistro offers a delicious and rich menu available through lunch and dinner from 11am to 10pm. Enjoy your lunch and/or dinner in a cool, air-conditioned interior area of the restaurant, accompanied by the warm lights and chic design that emphasizes the restaurant's laid-back, yet sophisticated ambience.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection



of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even mussels and rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience!

But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

L'Avenue honors and takes pride in serving the traditional Belgian and French flavors, but does not shy away from offering a flexible menu for their guests' needs. That's right, L'Avenue also offers to cater for their guests' dietary restrictions, making sure that each guest gets well taken care of!

### More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@



[lavenuearuba.com](http://lavenuearuba.com), or visit their website at [lavenuearuba.com](http://lavenuearuba.com) □



**SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and is**

**land charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.**

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly

visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history, San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place

that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can

be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

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## Enjoy learning about Aruba's monuments at MANA

ORANJESTAD - Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) is leading and organizing different events to commemorate International Day of Monuments on the 15th of September. The National Archaeological Museum of Aruba - MANA is also one of the 13 monuments which will be open to the public this coming Sunday, from 10am to 3pm.



Historical buildings that are part of MANA were declared legally protected monuments in 2010. Each one of them has its own history, culture, beauty and architecture. Present on Sunday will be two grandsons of Dundun Ecury, who will share memories of their elders and of the different buildings which used to belong to the Ecury family.

Visitors will be able to watch the short documentary "Dada Picus", produced by Rebeca Roos Productions and co-financed by UNOCA, Aruba's participation fund for art and culture. Dada Picus built different monuments in Aruba and is recognized as an architect with a unique style.

Archaeologist Raymundo Dijkhoff will give a short walk regarding land and sub-aquatic archaeological monuments. There will be two moments to attend this interesting presentation, which are at 11am and 1pm.

Only on Sunday, the first floor of Cas Dundun will be opened to the public. Get to know Cas di Mamachi, the impressive balcony of Cas Dundun, as well as the bedrooms of, among others, famous Aruban hero Boy Ecury and Nicky Ecury.



As always, MANA will give the opportunity to collect funds for a good cause. This time, the group "Hunto

mane un famia" (which means, "together as a family") will be in charge of the bar and kitchen. There will be a soup festival, Aruban snacks, popcorn and lime juice available. Additionally, there will be fun activities for children, like face painting, sensory box, and more.

SMFA will ensure a great atmosphere with different traditional bands playing in front of MANA, and their neighbour, Monumentenburo which will also be open. This way, the visitors can visit both of these at the same



time.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to get to know the 13 monuments in the center of Oranjestad, and have a great day with family and friends!

For more information, please visit the Facebook or Instagram page of Stichting Monumenten Fonds Aruba. □

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**Did you know about...**

## Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

**(Oranjestad)**—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or back-streets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then



you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The

basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!



# The district of Savaneta

## A quick history guide to the island's first capital

**(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.**

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

### The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

### How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

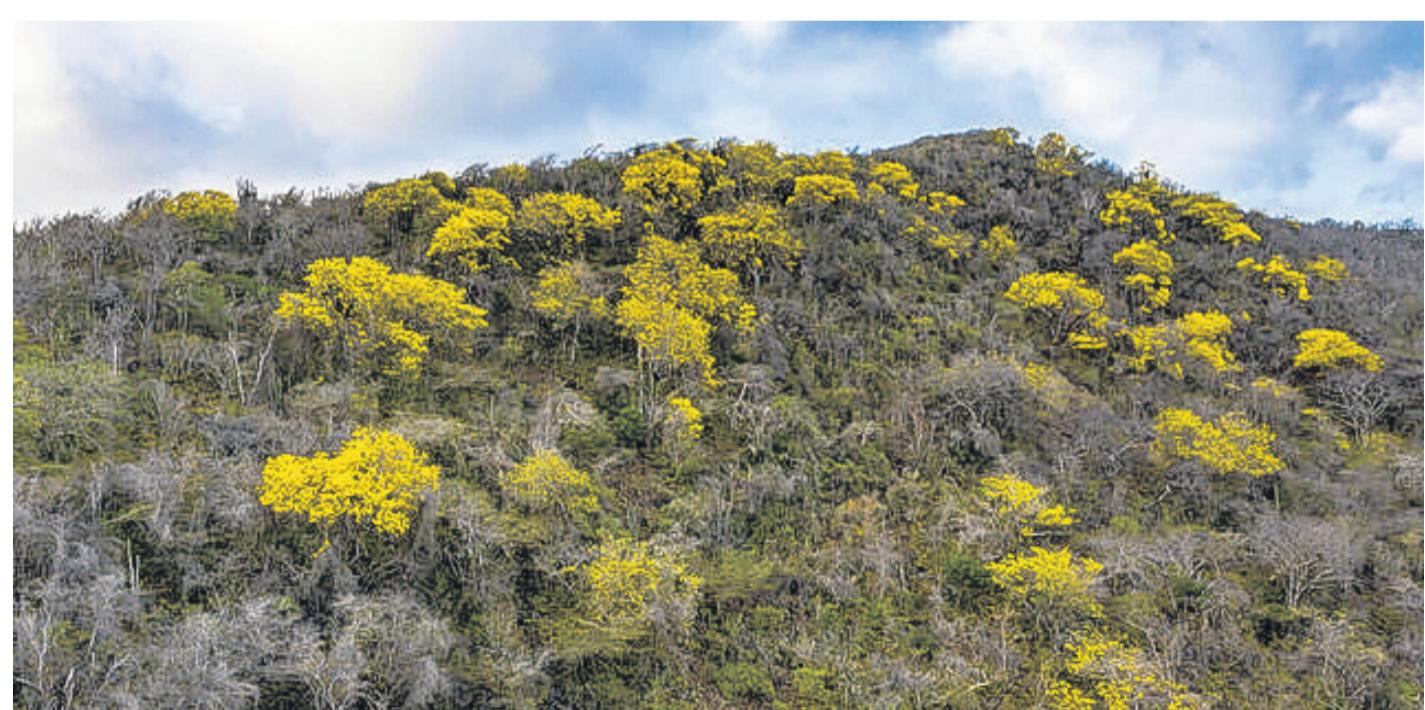
Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.□

**Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.**



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Used up

1 Foolhardy 40 Sibilant

5 Spheres summons

9 Manner of 41 Calls on speaking

11 Seasonal 12 DOWN 1 Gets up

13 Sudden 2 Prom chaperones, usually

14 Apartment sign 3 Chop-house choices

15 Building wing 4 Glutton

16 Unpopular mailer

18 Blocks

20 Future embryos

21 Emer-gency sound

22 Was aware

23 Silent assent

24 Track act

25 Crescent's tip

27 Attire

29 Wee worker

30 Diner fixture

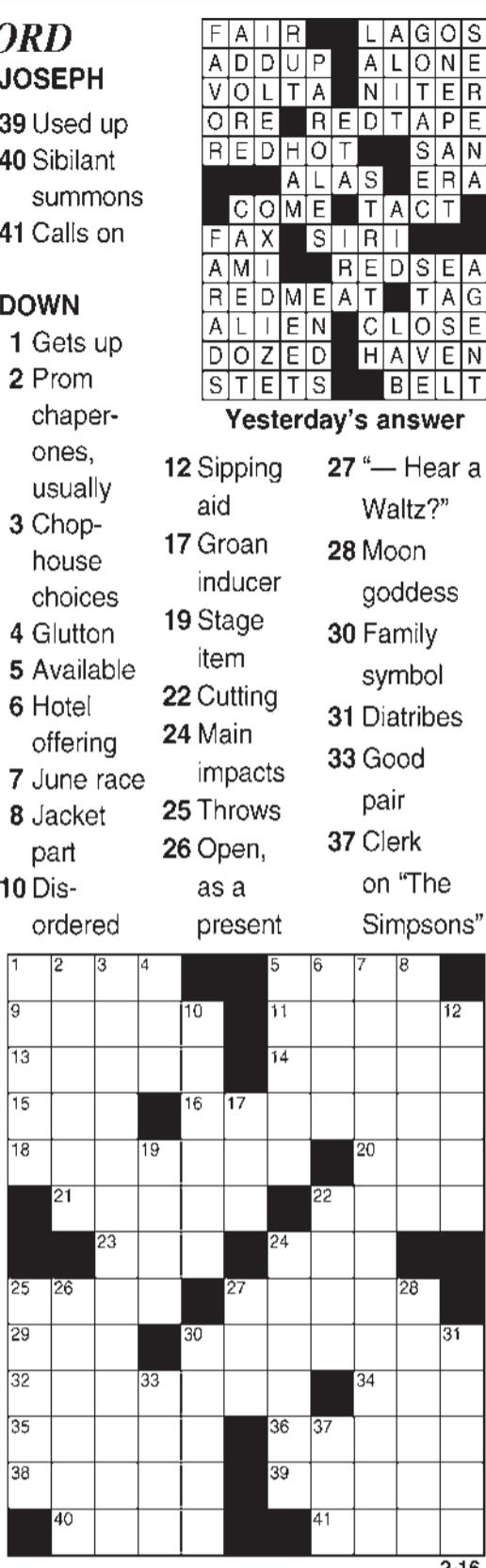
32 Give the oath of office to

34 Copying

35 Vestige

36 Occupied

38 "— alive!"



A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

D P Z A , I R O T Y V O M R C A

L Z D D T C B V P Z J R J O A R J P Z C E

M R Q S P D S M J R C E F M T C B

D S M J M . — F R J F R J R F Z A S  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WINTER IS ON MY HEAD, BUT ETERNAL SPRING IS IN MY HEART.  
— VICTOR HUGO

## Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

		ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

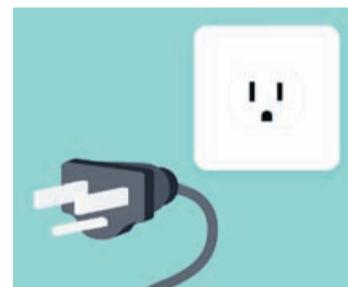
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

## Electrical power



## Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

## Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

# Spacewalking is the new domain of the rich as billionaire attempts first private spacewalk

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — First came space tourism. Now comes an even bigger thrill for the monied masses: spacewalking.

The stage is set for the first private spacewalk Thursday. Tech billionaire Jared Isaacman will pop out of the hatch of his orbiting SpaceX capsule, two days after blasting off from Florida on a chartered flight that lifted him and his crew higher than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers. He partnered with SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to buy a series of rocket rides and help develop brand new spacesuits.

SpaceX is the first private company to attempt a spacewalk, until now the domain of just 12 countries. There's a reason why it's such a niche and elite group: Spacewalking is considered the most dangerous part of any flight after launch and reentry, and demands extensive training.

"Spacewalks are a whole different entire ballgame than just strapping into a rocket and riding it, getting some zero-g time and coming back," said retired NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy.



This illustration provided by SpaceX in 2024 depicts a spacewalk from the Dragon capsule.

(SpaceX via Associated Press)

Cassidy knows firsthand about the dangers of spacewalking: He was working outside the International Space Station in 2013 when his partner, Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, almost drowned. Parmitano's helmet filled with water from his cooling garment, and he barely made it back inside in time. Another 30 minutes that day and "the answer might be different," Cassidy said.

Cassidy worries there's "a slippery slope" where the wealthy could try to jump to the front of a spacewalking line with minimal training.

Risk and disaster analyst Ilan Kelman of University

College London said it's "appropriate and inevitable" that non-professionals will end up performing spacewalks. But he anticipates fatalities along the way. □



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# Campbell wants to say goodbye to the 'soup' in its name. It isn't the first to make such a change

By W. GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Campbell is ready to drop the soup at least from its official name. Campbell Soup Co. announced its intention to change its name at an annual meeting of investors on Tuesday. The 155-year-old food seller, which is most famous for its assortment of namesake canned soups, says it would now like to be known as "The Campbell's Co." CEO Mark Clouse said in a statement that this "subtle yet important change" will retain the company's iconic name "while better reflecting the full breadth" of its portfolio today.

Campbell hasn't been exclusive to the soup business for some time. The company also owns brands like Prego sauce and Goldfish crackers and completed a \$2.7 billion acquisition of Sovos Brands, the maker of Rao's pasta sauces, just earlier this year. Campbell's roots date back to 1869, as a modest operation out of New Jersey that later grew. The "Campbell Soup Co." name was adopted in 1922, according to the company's website. The new name isn't official yet. The "soup" decision is still subject to a shareholder approval vote in November. But the New Jersey company



Cans of Campbell's soup are displayed in a supermarket on March 25, 2021, in New York. **Associated Press**

is far from the first to attempt such as makeover. A handful of other food companies have also rebranded themselves over the years often shedding the mention of specific item they were known for with shorter corporate title, or even just an updated logo, in hopes of emphasizing other business.

Manoj Thomas, a marketing professor at Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business, says that it's important to consider whether a new name will disrupt product recognition or stray from a company's core identity.

But he doesn't see these risks with Campbell noting that the move is "unlikely to affect consumer perception" and may instead signal a "drive for expansion and growth." Here are some past examples.

#### Dunkin'

Back in 2018, Dunkin' Donuts decided to shorten its name to just "Dunkin'" which officially took effect in January 2019. The Massachusetts-based chain had toyed with the idea for some time. And, while doughnuts are still very much on the menu, it eventually decided to rename

itself to reflect its increasing emphasis on coffee and other drinks.

#### Krispy Kreme

Krispy Kreme also dropped "doughnuts" from its corporate name several years later ahead of the Charlotte, North Carolina-based company's second time going public in 2021. According to a securities filing, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts changed its name to Krispy Kreme Inc. in May 2021. But the word "doughnuts" still prominently accompanies the Krispy Kreme name on the chain's logo and boxes

of treats.

#### Domino's

Domino's Pizza took the word "pizza" out of its logo and off storefronts back in 2012, with leadership of the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based chain at the time citing menu expansions and other in-store updates. But its parent company is still named "Domino's Pizza Inc.," which is what the brand trades as on the New York Stock Exchange.

#### Starbucks

Starbucks has also seen logo changes over the years which included the shortening, and then dropping, of the Seattle coffee giant's name over the years.

Back in 1971, Starbucks' original logo depicted a siren surrounded by its then-name "Starbucks Coffee, Tea, and Spices," the company notes on its website

In 1987, that siren got a makeover and the name encircling her was shortened to "Starbucks Coffee" — and by 2011, Starbucks introduced its latest logo, which doesn't feature the company's name at all.

While absent from the logo, Starbucks still operates as "Starbucks Coffee Co.," or similar names that include the word "coffee" in many countries around the world, as subsidiaries of the larger Starbucks Corp. □

## European business confidence in China is at an all-time low, report says



President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China Jens Eskelund holds a copy of the annual European Business in China Position Paper during a press conference in Beijing, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

**Associated Press**

HONG KONG (AP) — China must reprioritize economic

growth and reforms and boost investor confidence

by leveling the playing field for all companies in the country, a European business group said Wednesday. With "business confidence now at an all-time low" over lagging domestic demand and overcapacity in certain industries, the annual European Business in China Position Paper called on China to open its economy and allow a more free market to determine resource allocation. It also recommended introducing policies to boost domestic demand.

Profit margins in China are at or below the global average for two-thirds of the companies surveyed earlier in the year, according

to the paper published Wednesday by the European Chamber of Commerce in China.

In August, China filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over European Union tariffs on electric vehicles made in China. It also launched anti-dumping and subsidies investigations of European dairy products, brandy and pork exports. The tit-for-tat actions have raised fears that a trade war may break out. Many European businesses are deciding that the returns on investments in the world's second-largest economy are not worth the risks, due to issues including China's economic

slowdown and a politicized business environment.

"For some European headquarters and shareholders, the risks of investing in China are beginning to outweigh the returns, a trend that will only intensify if key business concerns are left unaddressed," Jens Eskelund, president of China's European Union Chamber of Commerce, said in a message at the beginning of the paper.

The European Chamber's paper proposes over 1,000 recommendations for China to resolve challenges and problems faced by European businesses operating in the country and boost investor confidence. □

# Bailey Falter carries no-hitter into 7th inning, Pirates beat Marlins 3-1 for sweep of season series

By WES CROSBY

Associated Press

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pittsburgh left-hander Bailey Falter carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning and the Pirates beat the Miami Marlins 3-1 on Wednesday afternoon for a sweep of the season series.

Falter (8-7) allowed three walks before Jonah Bride dropped a single into left field with one out in the seventh.

"I don't really worry about that stuff," Falter said, referring to the no-hit bid. "My job is to go out there and put up zeroes and get those guys off the field as quickly as possible."

The 27-year-old Falter gave up a leadoff single to Christian Pache in the eighth before being pulled on 93 pitches (57 strikes) after getting the first out with Kyle Stowers flying to center. Four of Falter's five strikeouts came in the first five batters, striking out the side in the first inning on 10 pitches. "I actually had a terrible bullpen session, so I came out there, guns hot, and told myself, 'Dude, I'm just going to grip this and rip it and see where it takes us.' That's what happens," Falter said.



Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Bailey Falter delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

David Bednar pitched the ninth but could not pick up his first save since Aug. 23. Otto Lopez led off with a double before Jake Burger reached on an error by shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa. Bednar struck out Bride and Jesús Sánchez before Pache hit an RBI single up the middle.

Jalen Beeks came in for Bednar, allowing an infield single to Stowers that loaded the bases, and got

Xavier Edwards to fly out to right for his 10th save.

"I think we're getting better," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "We're in a definite, much better spot than we have (been) in the last two years with our starting pitching. We're deeper than we have been. We have to continue to build things offensively and continue to grow that depth."

Jonathan Bermúdez (0-1) got through two innings for

Miami, allowing three runs and three hits with one walk in his first major-league start. The Marlins lost each of their seven games against the Pirates this season. They were swept to open the season in Miami, losing four games by a combined score of 31-17 before dropping the past three in Pittsburgh.

"Those guys fought," Miami manager Skip Schumaker said. "There's no doubt about it, they fought all

three games. Had a chance to win or tie all three games. We just couldn't come up with the big hit late. Falter was really good, fastball at the top of the zone that we couldn't get on top of. Not a lot of hard contact. Not a lot of great plays behind him, just a lot of weak contact and strikeouts."

Pittsburgh scored twice in the first inning. Bryan Reynolds hit a one-out double into right field, later scoring when Oneil Cruz walked with the bases loaded; Joey Bart went home on a sacrifice fly from Connor Joe.

Jared Triolo extended the lead to 3-0 the next inning with his eighth homer of the season.

"It was kind of sick," Triolo said of watching Falter. "It was really sick, actually. But not very cool to not talk to him for a while, but cool to see him do that."

## TRAINER'S ROOM

**Marlins:** RHP John McMillon replaced Bermúdez to start the third inning, allowing a leadoff single to Nick Gonzales before being immediately removed after two fastballs in the high 80s. He was pulled with tightness in his right forearm/elbow area, Schumaker said. □

## WNBA players and union speak out against commissioner after she failed to condemn fan racism

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

WNBA players and their union spoke out against Commissioner Cathy Engelbert's recent comments on a TV show that failed to condemn racist and bitter criticism from fans toward the Caitlin Clark-Angel Reese rivalry.

Engelbert made an appearance on CNBC's "Power Lunch" on Monday and was asked by anchor Tyler Mathisen about what he called the "darker" tone taken by fan bases on social media that brings race and sometimes sexuality into the conversation. "How do you try and stay ahead of that, try and tamp it down or act as a league

when two of your most visible players are involved — not personally, it would seem, but their fan bases are involved — in saying some very uncharitable things about the other?" Mathisen asked.

Engelbert responded by saying, "There's no more apathy. Everybody cares. It is a little of that Bird-Magic moment if you recall from 1979, when those two rookies came in from a big college rivalry, one white, one Black. And so we have that moment with these two."

"But the one thing I know about sports, you need rivalry. That's what makes people watch. They want to watch games of consequence

between rivals. They don't want everybody being nice to one another." WNBPA executive director Terri Jackson issued a statement Tuesday disagreeing with Engelbert's comments.

"Here is the answer that the Commissioner should have provided to the very clear question regarding the racism, misogyny, and harassment experienced by the Players: There is absolutely no place in sport — or in life — for the vile hate, racist language, homophobic comments, and the misogynistic attacks our players are facing on social media," the statement said. The union statement went on to say that fandom should



Iowa's Caitlin Clark, left, poses for a photo with WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert, right, after being selected first overall by the Indiana Fever during the first round of the WNBA basketball draft, April 15, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

"lift up the game, not tear down the very people who bring it to life."

Engelbert clarified her initial remarks on social media late Tuesday night, writing, "To be clear, there is absolutely no place for hate or racism of any kind in the WNBA or any-

where else." Clark and Reese have brought new attention to the WNBA this season with attendance and ratings soaring. The pair have been rivals on the court since their college days when LSU topped Iowa in the national championship game in 2023. □

# Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes says he will not endorse anybody for president

By DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said Wednesday he will not endorse either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, even as the former president continued to call Mahomes' wife, Brittany, a supporter of his campaign.

"I don't want my place and my platform to be used to endorse a candidate or do whatever, either way," Mahomes said before heading out to practice for Sunday's game against Cincinnati. "I think my place is to inform people to get registered to vote. It's to inform people to do their own research and then make the best



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes smiles during a news conference following an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo. The Chiefs won 27-20.

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decision for them and their family."

The comments from the three-time Super Bowl champion came less than a day after Taylor Swift, who is dating his Chiefs teammate Travis Kelce and has become friends with the Mahomes family, endorsed Harris for the presidency.

Swift's endorsement led Trump to say in a phone interview with Fox News on Wednesday: "I actually like Mrs. Mahomes much better, if you want to know the truth. She's a big Trump fan. I like Brittany. I think Brittany is great."

Trump began referencing Brittany Mahomes last month, after she had liked and then unliked an Instagram post by the Republican presidential nominee outlining the "2024 GOP platform." Trump posted soon afterward on Truth Social: "I want to thank beautiful Brittany Mahomes for so strongly defending me."

Brittany Mahomes has since stayed out of the political spotlight except to respond to critics on social media, saying in a post: "To be a hater as an adult, you have to have some deep rooted issues you refuse to heal from childhood."

Patrick Mahomes sidestepped a question Wednesday specifically about Trump's references to his wife, saying instead that "at the end of the day, it's about me and my family and how we treat other people." "I think you see Brittany does a lot in the community. I do a lot in the community to help bring people up, and give people an opportunity to use their voice," he said. "In political times people are going to use stuff here and there, but I can't let that affect how I go about my business every single day of my life, and trying to live it to the best of my ability."

Swift became close with the Mahomes family last year, when she began to date Kelce, often sharing the same suite during games at Arrowhead Stadium. □